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RECORD OF THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE FBIS-BBC MONITORING
SERVICE COORDINATING COMMITTEE HELD ON 3-5 NOVEMBER 1982 AT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Present: Mr. David Witherow, Head of Monitoring Service, BBC

Mr. E. M. Samy, Head, Reception Department, BBC
Monitoring Service

<input type="text"/>	Director, FBIS	25X1
<input type="text"/>	Deputy Director, FBIS	25X1
<input type="text"/>	Chief, Operations Group, FBIS	25X1
<input type="text"/>	Deputy Chief, Operations Group, FBIS	25X1

I. FINANCIAL OUTLOOK AND MODERNIZATION

FBIS reported that fiscal year 1983, which began on 1 October 1982, will not be a year of great change in budgeting. There is an increase of less than ten percent over the last fiscal year, but with seven or eight percent inflation likely this will mean no significant increase in resources. Moreover, FBIS has already been told to look for ways to reduce expenditures from originally proposed levels. FBIS does not yet have an appropriation for the current fiscal year and is operating on a Congressional authorization to spend one-twelfth of the 1982 funding per month. FBIS expects an allocation by late December.

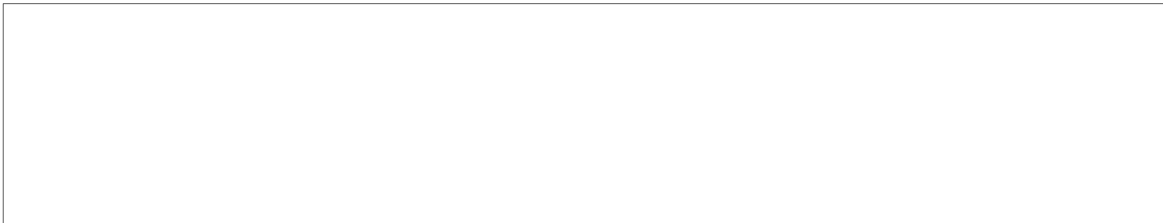
The FBIS modernization plan gets underway in FY 1984. Modernization includes the following elements: 25X1
(2) a new voice grade communications system which will link all bureaus and FBIS Headquarters (INTERNET), (3) the speeding up of the translation of press material, (4) development of an automated data base for analysis and (5) the automation of field text editing. The modernization program is in the final stages of executive review and should go to Congress in January. A final Congressional decision would be likely in May or June. FBIS will establish a small Systems Development Staff to oversee the modernization program.

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FBIS reported the following progress in its modernization to date:



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INTERNET is a complex project which will require several years for implementation. FBIS must keep under consideration other U.S. communications systems. There is an initial INTERNET feasibility study underway, and there will soon be a study of whether to use U.S. Government or commercial satellites for INTERNET.

FBIS has no money in the FY 1984 budget for field text editing but has received approval for the idea in principle for implementation in later years.

FBIS reported that MIDAS equipment to automate the Wire Service and two books of the Daily Report should be moved into Key Building by January 1983; some equipment may begin appearing in Key Building within the next few weeks. The whole MIDAS project is funded and is scheduled to be completed in December 1983.

BBC reported that the Government had funded the shortfall caused by inflation in the financial year 1 April 1982 to 31 March 1983. During this financial year BBC was able to call on savings to add five monitoring positions, one operational assistant and one or two other positions. The outlook for the financial year beginning 1 April 1983 is much the same as for the current financial year and there will probably be another shortfall. BBC is asking for more money in the financial year beginning 1 April 1983, primarily to take over management of [redacted] Caversham.

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BBC reported on its modernization plan which is planned to get underway in the financial year beginning 1 April 1984 and to extend over four to five years. The modernization plan will involve an expenditure [redacted] The plan is now going through BBC review, will subsequently go to the Foreign Office, then to Treasury and eventually to the Cabinet for approval. BBC hopes to get an advance of funds to be used in the financial year beginning April 1983. If advance funds are made available, outside consultants will be contracted to design the computer system by the end of 1983. The consultants will need answers from FBIS on such questions as how FBIS wants its material, whether all printed, all electrical or a combination. BBC believes its modernization plan is a well-balanced and realistic one and stands a good chance of funding, although many hurdles must be overcome in the budgetary process.

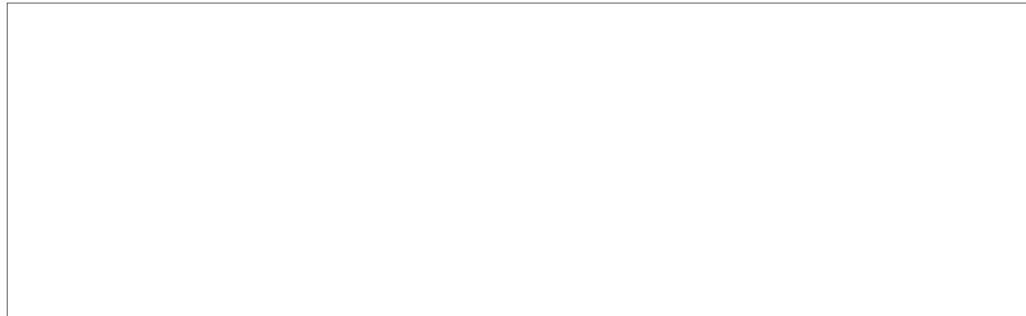
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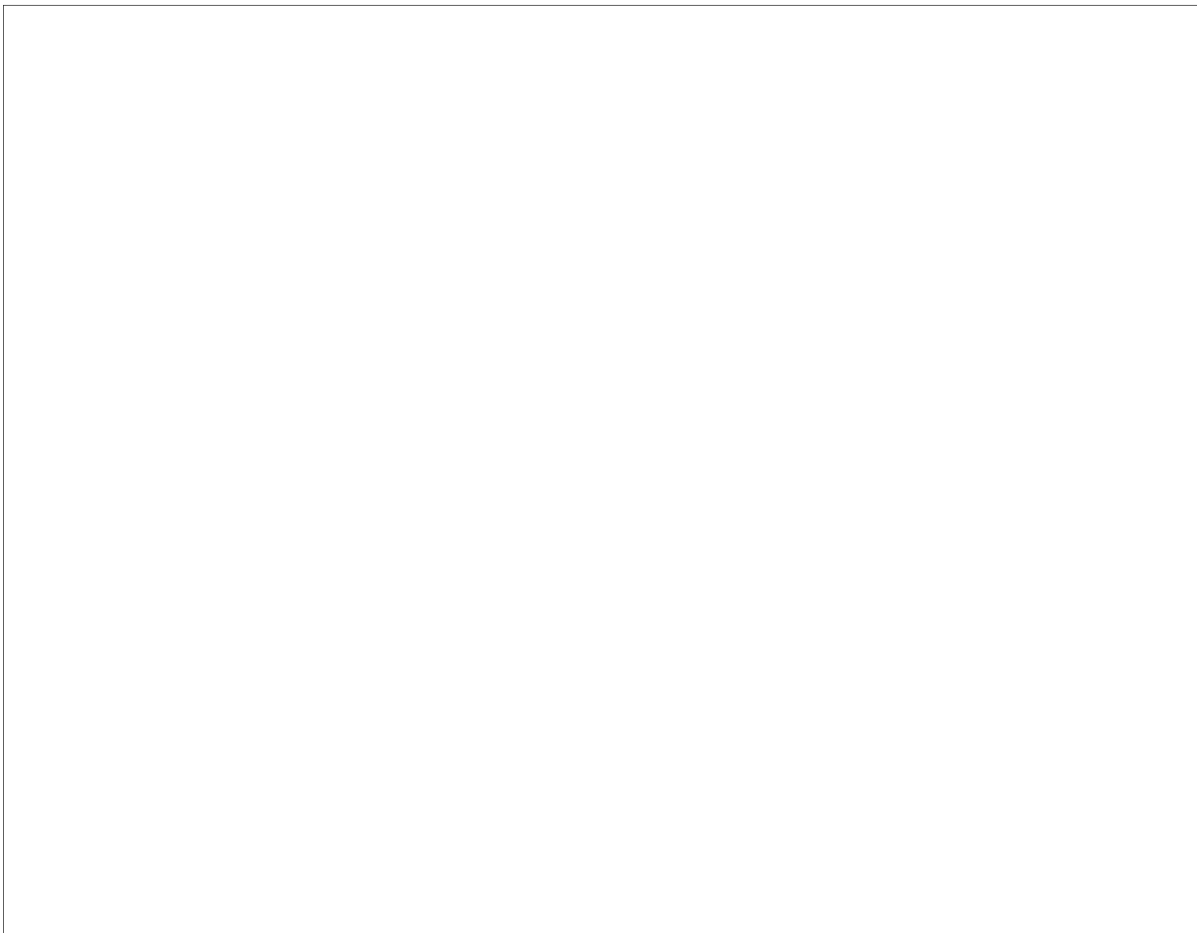
The BBC modernization plan consists of the following:

(1)



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- (2) Improvement of information technology: This involves the use of computers to handle material through the monitoring, editorial and external communications processes, and for frequency settings.
- (3) Improvement of accommodations: Space will be required for the computers and air-conditioners. Conditions for monitors will need to be improved and an extension to the main building is envisaged which will provide a new Listening Room and allow a more efficient arrangement of the editorial, news bureau and monitorial sections.



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3. LONDON BUREAU SPACE

BBC reported that FBIS needs will be kept in mind in the BBC modernization program.

4. VCVC

FBIS noted that the second VCVC has been a clear benefit to all concerned. FBIS expressed its desire that the second line not result in increased manpower needs in Vienna. BBC reported that it plans to have the new Sony recorders installed by December 1982 and all other modernization equipment for the VCVC to be in place by March 1983. FBIS noted that it will be able to fund line costs for the second VCVC during this fiscal year, but will have to continue to fund these costs on a year by year basis.

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FBIS-BBC Annual Coordination Meeting - 1982

Agenda

Financial Outlook (both services)

BBC Modernization Plans

FBIS Modernization Plans

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London Bureau Space

VCVC Developments

USSR-EE Coverage

Russian Regional and Central Asian Coverage

African Coverage

Middle East

Latin America

Far East

STAT

FYI's

BBC and FBIS Planning Regarding NEXUS and IRIS

FBIS - BBC Monitoring Service 33rd Coordination Meeting,
3-5 November 1982

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